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The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

Season's Greetings
section inside



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Firefighters from Minden Hills, Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al battled a blaze at the former Wagon Wheel Motel along Highway 35 south of Minden the morning of Saturday, Dec. 16. The fire resulted in a fatality. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Wagon Wheel Motel fire results in fatality

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

A Trent Lakes man was killed in a fire at the former Wagon Wheel Motel along Highway 35 south of Minden on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 16.

Minden Hills interim fire chief Mike Bekking said the department received the call at approximately 7:30 a.m.

"It was a fully involved structure fire," Bekking told the paper, adding the depart-

ment received assistance through its mutual aid agreement with the Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al departments.

Some 30 firefighters attended the blaze and firefighters were on the scene until about 5 p.m. Saturday.

After the fire was extinguished, the remains of a man and a dog were discovered.

The OPP have identified the deceased man as Johnathon Webb, 42.

An investigation by the OPP's crime unit and fire marshal's office determined that the

death was not suspicious.

Bekking credited firefighters for their work.

"They did a lot of work, and it was tough on them," he said.

Bekking also wanted to remind the public to ensure their homes have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

It's been more than a decade since the Wagon Wheel Motel operated as such, but it has been used for various purposes since, including rental housing.

Minden celebrates volunteers

Minden Hills celebrated outstanding volunteers at its annual volunteer and staff appreciation dinner on Dec. 8.

Sinclair Russell won the Gordon A. Monk award, so named for Monk's achievements and value he placed on volunteerism and citizen participation, and awarded to Russell for his activism in the community and his role in bringing events such as Lights and Delights and Minden Pride to the community.

The Ross Rigney Award for Civic Contribution, named for Minden Hills' first reeve and recognizing the value he placed on mentoring youth and encouraging their participation in the community, was awarded to local teen Darian Maddock for his work with the Minden Food Bank.

The Minden Hills Good Neighbour Award, which can be awarded to a permanent or seasonal "unsung hero," was awarded to Mickey Bonham for being an active member in various projects that included fundraising galas for the hospital auxiliary, being co-founder of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers group, a dedicated volunteer for Community Care and the Terry Fox run and a singer in the Shout Sisters.

The Arts and Culture award, new this year, was awarded to *Minden Times* reporter Sue Tiffin for resurrecting the Festival of Banners program and joining the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation.

The award is given for significant contribution to the art and culture life of Minden Hills

see VOLUNTEERS page 4



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Criminal record checks may take some volunteers by surprise

by JENN WATT
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the Dec. 14 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

A decision to apply the township's policy on criminal record checks to all volunteers, including those who do relatively small tasks during events like Dorset Snowball, may be news to some volunteers when they show up to help out.

Following feedback from members of the Dorset Recreation Committee, Councillor Brian Lynch asked that the topic be brought to council.

"As I looked at the policy, the policy seemed to have been put in place to address membership of committees and not so much general volunteers at one-day events. The Dorset Snowball, to my knowledge, has never had police checks. Certainly in my involvement, which goes back 15 years at least, there's never been police checks perhaps there should have been, but there wasn't," he said.

This year, the township's intention is to require that all volunteers complete a criminal record check ahead of time.

Lynch said there were several volunteers who were in the habit of coming to the event and rolling up their sleeves to help. Those people wouldn't necessarily know that a police check was necessary and would be turned away.

Some of those people have volunteered for years.

Lynch wondered if managers could waive police checks for volunteers who would not be interacting with the public.

"I would be concerned about waiving vulnerable sector checks for anybody who's interacting with the vulnerable sector," said Mayor Carol Moffatt, "... and something like the Dorset Snowball is awash with children. I think it's the township's due diligence to ensure the safety of its residents and its event attendees."

Chris Card, parks, recreation and trails manager for Algonquin Highlands, said he would like to update the current policy, which doesn't make clear that all volunteers need to complete the police check process. He would also look into some of the finer points of the policy.

There is no other vetting process in place, such as reference checks or training programs, for most volunteer positions, he said.

Card told council staff was preparing to deal with volunteers who arrive on the day of the event to be told they cannot help out this year. However, they are trying to avoid that situation as much as possible by publicizing the police check requirement and distributing paperwork that will assist in the process, including a pre-stamped envelope to be taken to the OPP detachment as well as a fee waiver letter.

"This is not something that is so hard to do that volunteers are going to fall off the map," said Moffatt, while acknowledging that there may be a few who choose not to go through the vetting process.

She said the Minden OPP detachment had told her the criminal record checks were typically done within a week.

Councillors discussed what should be defined as volunteering under the policy and where the line would be.

If someone helps by stacking chairs at the end of a public meeting, is that person technically volunteering?

"What's reasonable and at what point do you end up in crazyland?" Moffatt asked.

Card will be drafting an updated policy to come to the February council meeting. In the meantime, all Dorset Snowball volunteers will need to complete a police check before they can help out.

Council supports permanent health hubs

Algonquin Highlands council agreed in principle that the Dorset Community Health Hub continue operations beyond the trial period, contingent on sustainable funding from the province.

The resolution was passed in response to a presentation by director of programs from the District of Muskoka, Cheryl Faber.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funded the Muskoka Community Health Hubs Demonstration Project in 2014, which allowed for the establishment of five locations: Wahta First Nation, Port Carling, Dorset, Severn Bridge, Port Sydney and Vankoughnet.

The hubs provided primary and secondary care to about 1,800 patients during more than 15,000 visits, reducing pressure on emergency departments, according to council package materials.

As a demonstration project, the annual funding is set to expire in August of 2018, which led the group to apply for long-term base funding to make the hubs permanent.

"The communities have continued to contribute overwhelmingly for this health hub project," said Faber, pointing to \$4 million raised for capital and building costs and the ongoing support of the Dorset Community Partnership Fund.

As Dorset lies on the boundary of Algonquin Highlands and Lake of Bays, the latter's Mayor Bob Young attended the meeting to share his council's feelings about ongoing funding.

He said his council decided to write a letter of support "on the condition that an extra \$100,000 per annum be added to the Dorset amount alone because that is what's required to take it totally to the model you're talking about."

That model includes telemedicine services, outreach and lab services, among other things.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said that there had been some concern that following the demonstration project, residents would expect the municipalities

to foot the bill, should the province decide not to fund it.

"I'm glad to see it move into a more formalized process for requesting the permanent funding. I think that's a tremendous direction to go in," she said.

Algonquin Highlands would be interested in continuing its support for the Dorset hub only, she said, noting that the letter would reflect that Dorset is part of a larger network.

"Our focus is trying to continually assist where we can the Dorset facility alone, but certainly the Dorset facility is part of the five," she said.

Council's letter of support will be included in the health hub operations committee's submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, which is due in January.

Township waits on county decision

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce manager Autumn Wilson attended council to pitch a video project that would aim to attract new residents to the county with the aim of beefing up the workforce.

Mayor Carol Moffatt noted that Wilson is giving the presentation to all of the municipalities – including the county – and that conversation at the upper tier had indicated the funding for the video could come from the county.

The video would use the catch phrase "what are you waiting for?" and highlight the benefits of living and working in the Highlands.

Wilson told council that the demographics of the region are lopsided toward the senior end of the spectrum, which limits the number of people available to fill job postings. This, in turn, makes the area less attractive to employers thinking of setting up shop.

The ask was for each municipality (including the county) to contribute \$2,000 toward the project, giving them \$10,000 to work with. A rural economic development grant has also been applied for, which could reduce the bill by \$5,000 if the chamber is successful.

"This is not the first time this kind of film has been made, but with an emphasis on business I think it's a great idea. I love the tag 'what are you waiting for?' I just think that's perfect," said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen.

She also praised the idea of encouraging employers to post the short video to online job postings.

Moffatt said the chamber is in a good position to collaborate with other groups including the Lake of Bays economic development committee and the county's tourism department.

Wilson agreed and said breaking down silos that keep groups from partnering was one of her top priorities heading into the new year.

County council is to consider its budget on Jan. 4. If councillors choose to fund the video at the upper tier level, Algonquin Highlands council will not need to revisit the topic.

“

I think it's a great idea. I love the tag 'what are you waiting for?'

— DEPUTY MAYOR LIZ DANIELSEN

”

Health Unit Holiday Hours

The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on:
December 25, 26, 27 and
January 1, 2

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.



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Laurie Scott, MPP
Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock



Merry Christmas to you and yours All the best in 2018!

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HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
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HEALTH UNIT

Danielsen named deputy warden for county

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and Ward 2 Councillor Liz Danielsen is set to become the deputy warden of Haliburton County.

Danielsen was the sole member of county council to express interest in the newly created position during a Dec. 14 council meeting.

Earlier in the year, councillors discussed the creation of the position, designed to assist the warden, who is the head of county council. Councillors agreed that in recent years the warden position has evolved to entail more work, including provincial-level advocacy activities through organizations such as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. While a job description for the deputy warden position is still to be drawn up by staff, councillors agreed that the deputy warden position does not mean that whomever holds it is warden-in-waiting.

Danielsen was first elected to Algonquin Highlands council in 2010. Nearing the end of her second term, she also sits on the board of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

"I believe I am ready," Danielsen told fellow members of council as she put her name forward. Danielsen will be sworn in as deputy warden at a January meeting. She will be paid an additional \$1,000 at the upper tier level for fulfilling the role, and councillors also agreed to increase the annual remuneration for the warden position by \$1,000.

County council is comprised of the mayors and deputy mayors of each of Haliburton County's four lower-tier municipalities. County councillors are compensated both at the lower-tier and upper-tier level. Remuneration for councillors at the lower-tier level varies by municipality

by between about \$14,000 and \$18,500; for deputy mayors between about \$17,000 and \$22,000; and mayors between about \$24,000 and \$27,000.

At the upper-tier, a base salary plus per diem and mileage payments add an additional \$10,000 to \$13,000 in compensation in most cases, closer to \$20,000 for whom-ever is warden for the year. During last week's meeting, there was also a conversation about increasing compensation for all members of county council, although the idea didn't fly.

"I'll start off, I'm in the cheapest in the group," said Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey, who thought county councillors' compensation was fine where it was.

Fearrey said remuneration was in line with similar communities, such as Frontenac and Peterborough counties, other places where being a municipal councillor is essentially considered a part-time role. "There's no magic bullet for deciding what councillors are worth," Fearrey said.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt was in favour of remuneration increase across the board. "I think we need to," she said. Moffatt pointed out that some councillors contribute more than others, and that how much time councillors dedicate to the role is really up to them.

"There can't be any fairness across the board," she said.

"It's difficult to give yourselves a raise," said Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts.

"I honestly feel like I'm fairly compensated, here," Roberts said, referring to the county table. Roberts and other members of Dysart et al council have been advocating for an increase in council remuneration in that municipality. While it has the largest population, councillors and the deputy mayor in Dysart are paid thousands of dollars less than their counterparts in the

county's other townships. The mayor's remuneration is in line with that of other mayors.

Ultimately, councillors decided to leave

compensation for the bulk of county council where it is. Councillors also receive whatever yearly cost-of-living increase is given to staff members.

Half of income in MH is fixed income

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Of the annual collective income of the residents of Minden Hills township, about half of it comes from fixed income sources – that is, pensions or investments.

Auditor Oscar Poloni of firm KPMG visited Minden Hills councillors during their Dec. 14 meeting with what he called a state-of-the-township report, an in-depth analysis of the municipality's finances.

"Really, what we wanted to answer was, how are you doing, from a financial perspective?" Poloni said.

He said this included asking questions of whether the municipality can deliver all the services council wants at the level it wants, and if the municipality can pay its bills on time.

While the latter may seem an odd question for a municipal government, "I've had municipalities use federal gas tax [funding] to pay salaries."

The analysis used three financial indicators: sustainability, flexibility and vulnerability.

Sustainability means assessing whether a municipality can continue operating without raising the tax burden to an unreasonable level or issuing new debt.

Flexibility means assessing whether a municipality can increase available sources of revenue jeopardizing affordability, and vulnerability means assessing how at-risk a municipality may be from changes in revenue it doesn't control.

Under flexibility indicators, Poloni's presentation showed that about half of total income

collective for residents of Minden Hills comes from fixed income sources, mostly pensions and investments.

The total for reported collective annual income is about \$180 million. That includes only year-round residents of the township.

Poloni noted this means about half of every dollar being used to pay property taxes in the township comes from a fixed source, which is high. Accordingly it's more difficult to impose large tax increases than it would be in a community with more working people, as salaries tend to increase over time.

"Your level of discretion, as to how much you can increase, is actually a lot more constrained," Poloni said.

Overall, the township fared well on Poloni's assessment. Its operating expenses increase at the same level as assessment; it increases its reserve balances; tax increases are consistent with income increases. It carries little debt and is not reliant on grants to make capital investments.

One area where the township lagged behind comparable townships was in capital re-investment.

"When we look at how much you're re-investing, your numbers are OK, they're not fantastic," Poloni said.

Mayor Brent Devolin asked Poloni what he thought of the concept of debt being a revenue-driving tool. It's become very common in recent years for municipalities that are indebted to receive more grants from upper levels of government.

"Making blanket statements about debt is incorrect," Poloni said, adding that circumstances vary.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

PUBLIC WELCOME

Jan 25 - 9:00 am, combined COTW/Council Meeting, Minden Council Chambers
For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca
Please Note: Council meetings are reduced to one meeting during the month of January.

NOTICE BUDGET STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Take Notice that the Budget Standing Committee, comprised of all members of Council, will meet on Thursday January 11, 2018 at 9:00 am in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON to review the second draft of the 2018 Budget. For further information regarding the meeting, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk Township of Minden Hills 705-286-1260 ext. 205 dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

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Seasons Greetings

From the Township of Minden Hills

Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

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Administration Office

Hours of Operation:

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

CLOSED Dec 25th to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume Jan 2nd, 2018

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery

CLOSED

Dec 22nd to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume Jan 3rd, 2018

Landfills

All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

Dec 24th 8:30 am – 11:00 am

CLOSED Dec 25th & 26th

Dec 27th – Call Arena for hours

CLOSED Jan 1st

Community Services Department

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Hours of Operation:

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

CLOSED Dec 25th to Jan 1st

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Volunteers from all sectors honoured

from page 1

through the development, support, preservation or promotion of local heritage, culture, music, visual, performing or literary arts.

The Trillium Award, also new this year, recognizes individuals, groups or businesses whose horticultural, community beautification, civic pride, protection, conservation or enhancement of the environment supports the Communities in Bloom program.

The award went to long-time members of the Horticultural Society Liz and Nick Case, who have organized work parties to prune, weed, mulch and maintain the Village Green gardens.

Hosts who took part in the Doors Open event this past fall were recognized as well.

The Sports and Recreation Award, intended for an individual, team, or group whose athletic accomplishments exemplify healthy active living in Minden Hills, received no nominations this year.

The awards are open to nominations from the public each year. For more information visit mindenhills.ca.

- Times Staff



Above, Sinclair Russell, in photo at far right, won the Gordon A. Monk award. Right, the Ross Rigney Award for Civic Contribution, was awarded to local teen Darian Maddock, seen here with Lois Rigney and Brent Devolin.



The Minden Hills Good Neighbour Award was awarded to Mickey Bonham.



The Arts and Culture award, new this year, was awarded to *Minden Times* reporter Sue Tiffin for resurrecting the Festival of Banners program.



May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter.

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Transit time

IT'S SOMETHING some members of Haliburton County council don't seem to want to deal with, and certainly it will be a sizeable challenge, but the county needs some form of public transportation system.

County council recently received a proposal with options from a community transportation task force. Some of the suggested models include the use of school buses during the day when they are not being used to transport students, and passenger vehicles that would run flexible routes, picking up passengers who've booked a ride from set pickup locations. A hybrid model would dovetail these modes of transportation, having passengers transfer between them.

Councillors expressed skepticism and even doubt that a transportation system in the community could be effective. There were concerns about logistics, public safety and liability. There were concerns about cost. There was the reiteration of the fact that the county is geographically large, with a sparse population spread throughout its expanse.

There was the reiteration that transportation pilot projects have been tried in the past and have failed, and that transportation projects in neighbouring rural communities are struggling.

Just because something didn't work in the past is no reason not to try it again.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin has said there is a public appetite for public transportation and that council has to do something. He's right on both counts.

There are repeated calls for transit in the community and have been for the past decade, yet county council does

nothing about it. Nothing substantial, anyway. There seems to be a mutual understanding that it won't work, and councillors move along.

That's not good enough anymore.

The community is changing. Look to the continued construction of condominium buildings as evidence of this. People are retiring here, and there will be many more on the way in ensuing decades. How long before many of those people stop driving?

What about Fleming College students? With no residence building on the Haliburton campus, many must walk or get rides to and from classes.

A transit system could help those who don't drive and are unemployed to become employed. It could also help those who don't drive and want to support local businesses get to and from those local businesses, rather than making purchases on Amazon, which so conveniently delivers to one's door.

There is funding from upper levels of government available to help with the cost of municipal transportation projects, but a transit system will certainly cost the county money, likely to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. While this may be a bitter pill, it's something councillors are going to have to get their heads around.

Local politicians may pride themselves on the area's low taxes, but we have a lack of services to accompany those low taxes. No garbage pickup, for instance. No transit.

2018 is a municipal election year and locally, transit will constitute one of the defining conversations. And councillors who refuse to get on board with some kind of transit plan may very well find themselves under the bus.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter



"Buddies keeping warm on a cool morning," writes John Gibb.

Enjoying winter

CHRISTMAS IS JUST around the corner and that gets me excited for a lot of reasons. You can't help but look forward to the gathering of family, the fantastic food and the giving of gifts. Then there is the wonderful spirit that accompanies the season, which includes kindness, charity and a renewed community spirit. All this is fantastic.

But Christmas is also the beginning of the winter outdoors season. This is the time when savvy outdoors enthusiasts gather ice fishing gear, dust off snowshoes or clean rabbit hunting gear. And then when no one is looking, they hide it.

For this year, we say to ourselves, we will not waste the magic of winter one bit. No, we will finally enjoy winter the way it was meant to be enjoyed – with dry socks from a chair beside the heating grate.

The campaign to do so begins on Jan. 1 – the day we realize we forgot to renew our fishing and hunting licences. This can happen to any outdoors enthusiast, of course. The real skill comes in delaying renewal.

This is something I have never been able to accomplish. These days, we simply have too many options. We can phone in, go online or visit a local outdoors shop and have a fishing or hunting licence handed to us in a second.

And once we have these in hand, it's a downhill slide from there.

That is to say, once you've got valid licences, there's no excuse for not enjoying winter and the frigid temperatures it brings.

Sure, you can fake the flu till spring, but that's probably not the best thing for your career. Although, when you weigh a demotion or loss of job against the chance to avoid a winter camping excursion, the old flu ploy does not sound all that bad.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Needless to say, there are more reasonable ways to avoid spending a lot of time outside in winter. Yes, it's certainly not easy to make your own fake body cast, but when you consider that this will keep you from jiggling for hours on a frozen wind-swept lake for lake trout that always fall within the slot size, it's probably worth the effort.

The problem with both of these solutions is that every outdoorsman has an overly enthusiastic friend who loves winter camping, fishing and hunting. They also play football without a helmet.

These are folks that will continually hound you until you finally give in and go ice fishing or on a rabbit hunting adventure. Worse still, their enthusiasm will make you forget things like why you dislike icicles growing out of each nostril or why blue skin is not a good colour on you. And, before you know it, you'll be doing something silly like peeling off your body cast and putting on a pair of snowshoes.

From there on in, you will be out so often that you will actually end up enjoying winter through no fault of your own; I blame the brain freeze. It will happen grudgingly at first. You'll somehow have a good day ice fishing – meaning there will be no hooks attached to any part of your new snow suit. Next, you might actually snowshoe for an hour or two without doing a face plant. After that, you'll realize the night you chose for winter camping might end up being the mildest that season.

That part will be the best winter experience of all – but only because you'll realize this from the warmth of your bed due to that darn flu.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Christmas memories

THE BEST CHRISTMAS presents are memories.

Happy memories of times spent with special people, some now gone. Memories that never break or wear out, and are as wonderful and inspiring this Christmas as they were last year, or five years ago.

My absolute favourite Christmas memory I have written about many times. The number of times is irrelevant because every time I write about it, tears fall on my keyboard. This is that memory:

Fresh-fallen snow protested beneath the crush of my gumboots breaking trail down the unplowed lane. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk cruelly scrapped against too clean a blackboard.

Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle deep snow. From each side of the lane, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the backsides of the bungalows, dropped there to rest by an impatient blizzard just passed through. Their crests were indistinguishable against the white stucco walls but nearly reached tufted piles of fluffy snow clinging nervously to windowsills and eaves-trough lips.

The squeaks flew through the still night air, dodging fat flakes that fell heavy and straight onto my cap bill, occasionally splashing into my face flushed warm from the walk. I could have rode back home from Christmas Eve Mass with the family, but the teenage mind prefers independence, and it was a chance to visit friends along the way.

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window. I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and

smoke rose together into an icy sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of stars and the frosty moon the Ojibwe called Minidoo Geezis, the little spirit moon that appears small and cold early in winter.

I held my breath to hear better and determined that the music was the Christmas carol "O Holy Night," and the notes came from the window in my grandmother's room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then and at gatherings cracked a window to thin the smoke. They sang the first verse, and, when they reached the sixth line, the other voices ceased and one voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii ... iiight Diii...vine! ..." That's the part where the notes rise higher and higher until the singer reaches an awesome note.

The solo voice belonged to my grandmother, and I knew she was hitting that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that crippling rheumatoid arthritis had made her prison for 16 years. She was unable to walk without assistance and had trouble holding a cigarette between her gnarled fingers.

The others had stopped singing to listen to her. The second time she hit the high notes at the words "O Night Divine," a shiver danced on my spine.

When she finished singing "O Holy Night," the other voices started up again, this time with "Silent Night" and other favourite carols. I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants — my mom, dad, and some neighbours — crowded into the 10-by-10 bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and my mother.

After the singing ended my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts.

I have long forgotten what I got, and it doesn't matter, because my real gift came many years later: the realization that those high notes were not solely the products of my grandmother's lungs. They came from a strength far beyond anything that a mere body can produce.

They were high notes driven by something far stronger than flesh — an unbreakable spirit.

(This column was adapted from my book *Waking Nanabijou: Uncovering a Secret Past* — Dundurn Group 2007)

Email: shaman@vianet.ca
Profile: <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B001K8FY3Y>

Legion tree bears warmth

Legion br. 636



Dec. 22, lunch and dinner as usual, karaoke at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 23 to 26, closed. Dec. 27 to 29, bar open, but no lunch served. Closed Dec. 30, open the 31st 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 1. President's Levy 2 to 5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Tuesday, Jan. 2, open for full service. Have a safe and happy holiday season, from all at branch 636.

Our kitchen is being renovated this holiday season, as you can see by our open hours during that period. Our volunteers will be hard at work, painting, cleaning and general reorganization. We bought a new well needed freezer, and are on the lookout for a cooler. All of our appliances are ancient, and using far too much power. So hopefully in the New Year, everything will be spic and span.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. To all those kind-hearted souls who donated warm outerwear to our tree of warmth. These items will be delivered to the food bank to go into Christmas baskets for those less fortunate folks, who have to brave this cold weather. We will be continuing this next year, so don't put those knitting needles away! As you can see from the picture, the tree is laden with items.

We at the branch would like to thank all of our supporters, who frequent our lunches, special entertainment events, come to our gatherings of cards, darts, and special interest groups. Most importantly, we wish to thank our tireless volunteers, including the executive committee, without whom we could not operate. You may not know that we only have three paid employees. The rest of this operation is managed by volunteers.

The business end, the treasurer, the secretary, the bar and kitchen management, the maintenance, buying supplies, arranging entertainment, draws and general fundraising. We have a service officer who is always available for veterans.

Happy holidays, everyone.



The Minden Legion's tree of warmth features donated hats and mittens that will be delivered to the Minden Food Bank for distribution.

A taste of the holiday season

HERE WE ARE. We're well into this holiday season. The music is playing, the food is plentiful, and the drinks are flowing. All of the celebrating can be overwhelming; and the challenge to control our caloric intake is greater than any other time of the year. While it is nice to enjoy the season, it's even better to get through it without adding too many pounds to the waistline.

Here are some ideas to help you get through the rest of the season:

Record everything that you eat and drink, but give yourself a day or two off from tracking. A couple of days will be a nice break. Be sure to get back on track though.

Eat something healthy before you head out to an event. It's never a good idea to go near festive foods when you're starving.

If it's a potluck you're attending, make something healthy as your contribution like a vegetable platter. Try to eat what you bring to the party.

Scope out the healthy options, and eat those first. Minimize the creamy and sugar-laden foods that you choose.

Drink lots of water before and during the event. It will fill you and hydrate you at the same time.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Control the portion sizes. Sample desserts. It's the first bite that actually tastes the best.

Be sure to chew your food really well. Savour the flavour. You have to slow down to do that. Your brain will have a chance to hear when your stomach is getting full.

The other half of the healthy holidays equation is to keep moving. It's great to take a break from regular routines but it's important to keep some level of exercise in your day. If you don't have the time or the attention for your regular routine, break it up into smaller segments. When even that is too much to fit in, get your loved ones out for a walk or a snowball fight. It feels so good to step out into the cool crisp air at this time of the year — once you get out there. Be sure your phone or camera are charged up so you can snap photos of the new memories you're making.

A couple of small adjustments could make this holiday season your healthiest yet. Regardless, be sure to enjoy it!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal trainer and spinning instructor. She is one of the founders of The Point for Fitness: www.thepointforfitness.com.

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Online generosity becomes reality at event

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Jessica Mann was overwhelmed with the generosity of Minden residents – but so was her garage.

The Minden resident had seen so many local people posting on Facebook in need of help finding a clothing item for their kids or something extra for their cupboard, but without the resources to purchase something or even leave the house to access it, that she felt she needed help.

“It sucks to have to be in need for something, and there’s no way to get it,” she said. “Everyone has been there once. Some people struggle with it more than once.”

So, she started a Facebook group that sits alongside the local buy and sell groups – “New and Gently Used Items for Free – Minden, Ontario,” in which people could post any item in great condition to give away. Within a few short months, the group had amassed more than 500 members, with people sharing furniture, bedding, bags of clothing and personal hygiene products, sometimes joining together offline to help distribute items or deliver them to those without transportation.

“There is no judgement,” said Mann. “If anybody has any issues, I don’t care if you’re a business owner or you have a full-time job...in our society with what we all make, and the cost of items, everybody needs help.”

Mann acknowledged other helpful resources in town including the food bank, churches and thrift shops, but wanted to help do more for people who needed further help even after accessing those services, or for people who had missed out on a few days of work due to illness, making their paycheques less than they had anticipated.

“It’s sad that there are so many people,” she said. “A lot of them I do know personally. I see them push and try their hardest every day. Especially when you have to work through the day because your kids are in school, and if

you don’t work through the day, you’re having to pay for daycare or a babysitter. Rents and mortgages are outrageous. I don’t understand how some people can survive.”

The site has also been used as a place for people to source out one item, like a certain size of pyjamas, or give away coupons they won’t use or unopened food they bought extra of before realizing their child won’t eat it. Mann has listed local resources including food bank locations, YWCA resources and job listings, and also hosts giveaways on the site, drawing interested member’s names so they might win some unique items as a pick-me-up.

But the quick growth in popularity of the site and Mann’s willingness to house donations so they could be picked up at any hour has led to a big stash of furniture, books and kitchen appliances crowding her house. She also realized that the cost of the internet means some people, already drowning in monthly bills, can’t access the site. With the help of some of her clients (Mann runs a cleaning business), she was able to pull donations together to rent the Minden Lion’s Club hall and host a free giveaway event, just before Christmas, which occurred on Dec. 19 and 20.

Items not picked up will be donated back into the community.

“There’s probably tons of people out there who could use some extra help,” said Mann. “What better way than to have a big event.”

Before the event opened, Mann and a crew of volunteers had filled the room with tables organized with toiletries, toys, household appliances, decorations and books, and were ready to open the doors to give back to anyone in need.

“It’s just amazing, the information that goes out in the group, the support people give, it’s...it just touches my heart so much,” said Mann. “Just seeing that everyone can reach out and help even when we all don’t have much to offer. Maybe it’s just a pat on the back to say, ‘hey, you can get through this.’ There’s always something someone can do.”

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Council hears suggestions for creation of affordable housing

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

There are a variety of ways Haliburton County could help spur the development of affordable housing, county councillors heard last week.

Hope Lee, manager of housing for the City of Kawartha Lakes, which is Haliburton County's social services and Christine Pacini, a founding consultant with SHS Consulting, a Richmond Hills-based firm specializing in affordable housing, presented councillors with an affordable housing framework during their Dec. 13 meeting.

As a report from the consulting firm explains, "Low and moderate income households are those households with incomes falling at or below the 60th income percentile. The affordable house price for households in the 60th income percentile in the City of Kawartha Lakes is \$321,314 and the affordable rent is \$1,014. The affordable house price is lower than the average house price in Kawartha Lakes in 2017 of \$390,000. According to CMHC [the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation], the average market rent for Kawartha Lakes for October 2016 was \$987, which is lower than the affordable rent based on the 60th income percentile. As such, affordable housing thresholds

for 2017 are a house price of \$321,314 and monthly rent of \$987. The City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Haliburton are considered one regional market. As such, these are the affordable housing thresholds for the county as well."

"I will preface this by saying it sounds high, but this would be the absolute maximum," Pacini told councillors.

Affordable home ownership is considered the least expensive of: accommodation costs that do not exceed 30 per cent of an annual household income for low and moderate households incomes, or housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 per cent below the average purchase price of a resale market unit in the regional market area.

Affordable rent is considered the least expensive of: a unit for which rent does not exceed 30 per cent of gross annual income for low and moderate household incomes, or a unit for which rent is at or below the average market rent for the regional market.

According to the report, 25 per cent of households in Haliburton County are facing affordability issues, meaning those households spend more than 30 per cent of their gross annual income on housing. Half of renters in the county spend more than a third of their gross annual income on rent.

"There's a very limited rental supply in your community," Pacini said, adding this was true of all rental units,

not just those considered affordable.

Rental units are something not being constructed much in the county by the private sector, she said.

The framework presents 26 different tools that council might consider to encourage the building of more affordable housing.

Some of these suggestions include the development of policies that require new developments to provide a certain percentage of affordable units; policies that encourage the development of secondary suites [this is something included in the county's new official plan]; the development of "coach house" dwellings; and alternate building standards for affordable housing projects.

As Pacini explained, this could entail changes such as a reduction in the number of required parking spaces for an affordable housing complex.

"Primarily because a lot of tenants of affordable housing, they don't drive," she said.

For developers of affordable housing, waivers on permit fees and parkland dedication requirements could act as incentive.

Other suggestions include the donation of surplus municipal land for housing projects, or the sale of municipal land below market value for the purpose; developing a master inventory of surplus municipal land that could be used for housing and sharing that information with developers; the creation of a housing reserve fund; and exploring the opportunities of creating community hubs in partnership with community agencies, non-profit housing providers and government agencies.

Another suggestion is that agreements be struck with developments' owners to keep rents affordable.

"Talking to private developers, the issue is uncertainty," said Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey. "They don't know if their hydro is going to go up 20 per cent in three years."

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts said she'd asked a local builder why he didn't construct rental unit buildings.

"He said the economics aren't there, so how do you sell that to the private sector?" Roberts said.

Pacini said that by using some of the tools in the framework, municipalities could lower the cost of construction projects for builders.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said working with the private sector on affordable housing would be a necessity that may require incentives from upper levels of government.

"The public side of it can never do this, and they're going to have to create a program for the private side," Devolin said.

As Minden Hills council prepares to update the township's official plan, Devolin said that in the future, developers in the township will be required to provide a certain ratio of affordable units.



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Tobogganing was one of the activities the students could choose

Mackenzie, Sophia, Sarah and Erynn are full of smiles during their skate.



Grade 8 students Nick, Evan and Bronson spent their skating time with their kinder buddies, Cooper and Nixon.



Full house for festive feast

Archie Stouffer students filled the Minden Hills Community Centre for their Festive Feast and Holiday Celebration on Dec. 15. The ice time and community centre was donated by the Township of Minden Hills. In preparation for the dinner, the Minden food bank, along with volunteers cooked and carved 240 pounds of turkey, 300 pounds of potatoes, 14 kg of corn, 36 boxes of Stove Top dressing, 35 dozen buns and gravy. Chocolate milk was donated by Kawartha Dairy and juice by Food for Kids./KAREN LONDON Staff



Students get ready to race each other down the toboggan hill.

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Public transportation plans pose challenges

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

County councillors talked about public transit options during a Dec. 13 meeting, albeit with some skepticism.

The county's transportation task force, which was formed during a community transportation summit in November of last year, has submitted a business case for a public transportation system, with a number of model options, to the county.

"The County of Haliburton is not currently serviced by a comprehensive public transportation service," the submission reads. "There are a number of transportation services through local agencies/municipalities available within specific locations and/or to a specific segment of the population. The existing transportation patchwork does not meet the current needs of all residents within the county."

"A municipal transportation service, provided for all residents and visitors, would have a positive impact on life, work and play within the county."

According to the report, which uses data from the 2016 census, between 20 and 30 per cent of the county's population does not drive, due to age, disability, income or choice.

The goal of most transportation is to access desired

services and activities (e.g. work, school, shopping, recreation, healthcare)," the report from the task force continues.

"In a rural community, it is easy to equate transportation to driving a car. Distances between destinations are great, and for most people, getting into a personal vehicle is the way they get around. However, in a community of any size, a multi-modal transportation system ensures that everyone, including non-drivers, have viable transportation options. A well planned transportation system can also help to reduce congestion and wear on roads and also reduces air pollution from passenger vehicles. An affordable transportation service can also help to reduce transportation budgets for government-funded agencies."

One option would use school buses, during the hours they are not being used transporting students to and from school, and offer five fixed routes throughout the county, at fixed times, for a fixed fare. According to the submission, operating such a service five days a week would cost approximately \$500,000 a year.

A booked, shared ride service would use one or two smaller, accessible passenger vehicles, that would travel flexible routes that would vary by day, depending on whom has booked rides. A scheduler would design each day's route.

Costed out on the basis of two vehicles travelling 4.5

hours a day, that option would cost about \$250,000 a year for a five-day-a-week service. A similar model using a passenger van would cost about \$190,000 for the year, for service five days a week.

A blended model – using a school bus to run fixed routes between Minden and Haliburton, and smaller passenger vehicle to run flexible routes, with passengers transferring between the two – would cost approximately \$315,000 to operate five days a week.

"We are not going to be able to go door-to-door and pick everybody up, and that's something the task force has acknowledged," county planner Charlsey White told councillors. Any system would involve the establishment of pick-up points.

Funding is available for municipalities to assist with transportation services. Under the Ontario Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program, municipalities can receive up to 75 per cent of the amount they spend on transit from the province's gas tax fund. However, that program does not fund pilot projects. White told councillors the county would qualify a new \$30 million funding program from the MTO, geared toward under-serviced and rural municipalities, and may be able to get some startup funding that way.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt had many questions regarding the proposal from the transportation task force.

"I think this is a really big conversation, and I think it's important to ask the question now," Moffatt said.

Moffatt noted that a system running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. would not be of much help to those trying to get to work. She also had concerns around public safety – particularly that of youth and seniors – at pick-up points.

"How do we ensure pick-up points are safe?" Moffatt asked, noting that the county would have to face issues of liability.

"That, again, would have to be worked out," White said. "Not a perfect system."

While routes to Dorset had been included in some of the proposed models, Moffatt noted that the majority of residents travel to Huntsville, not Minden or Haliburton, for various needs. She also had questions around exactly how a system that involved booking rides would work. Would people book their medical appointments first, then their bus rides, or vice versa? What about cancellations?

"My concern is that there are some very real logistical barriers," Moffatt said.

The county has attempted transportation in the past, although not for many years. Its expansive geography and sparse population provide a challenge.

Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey reiterated how far spread out the county's communities are.

"It's easy to identify needs, I can tell you that, but solutions are a lot tougher," he said.

Fearrey suggested that, if getting people to and from work was to be the main goal of a transportation service, then perhaps designing one that offered rides at the beginning and end of the standard workday made sense.

"I know all public transportation systems operate at a loss," said Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts. Roberts said she was wondering where the threshold was; how much money council would be willing to spend on a service.

"There will be a loss," said county chief administrative officer Mike Rutter. "It is a reality."

Rutter said the introduction of a public transportation system in Haliburton County represented a cultural shift.

"There are cultural changes," Rutter said. "It is a really different culture than we are used to up here."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, noting that more and more younger people do not own their own vehicles, said it was clear there is a demand for public transit in the community.

"The public has an appetite, we have to do it," Devolin said.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen said that while a transportation service may work for Minden Hills and Dysart, which house the county's main communities, she wasn't so sure it would be effective in the farther flung and more rural municipalities.

"I just don't see it being a successful program for places like Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands," Danielsen said.

A staff report regarding the creation of a transportation model will come back to council.

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WHAT'S ON stage THIS SUMMER



Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare

In Verona violence rules, where two families bear an ancient grudge. In this world where greed, wealth and bitter feuds prevail, two children dare to choose love. The Prince decrees: if Montague or Capulet again disrupts the peace, death is the punishment. Underscored by ingenious wit and astonishing beauty, Romeo and Juliet is the greatest love story ever told.

Performances July 2-5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 & 8 (2 p.m. matinee), 9 & 10 (7:30 p.m.).

The Dining Room

by A.R. Gurney

The play is set in a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The actors change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

Performances July 30 - Aug 2 (7:30 p.m.), 3 & 5 (2 p.m. matinee), Aug 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.).

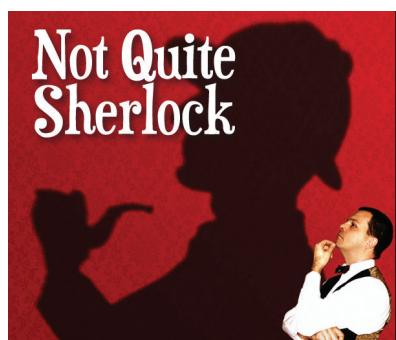


Cliffhanger

by James Yaffe

Mingling suspense and humour, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns that result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career.

Performances July 16-19 (7:30 p.m.), 20 & 22 (2 p.m. matinee), 23 & 24 (7:30 p.m.).



Not Quite Sherlock

Created by and starring Chris Gibbs

Not Quite Sherlock is a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. It's also a ridiculous comedy about an ex-street-performing comedian attempting to do a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. With wit, charm, timing, and almost no respect for the rules of theatre, Chris Gibbs creates a simple, hilarious theatrical experience unlike any other.

Performances July 11 & 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (2 p.m. matinee).

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From Weimar to Vaudeville

by Tom Allen

The story of two men, both sons of musical royalty. As America emerges from the Great Depression and Germany descends into darkness and chaos, two musical princes, one rich, one poor, reach out to each other across hardship and time as the world

tilts again toward war. Featuring music by Richard Strauss, Charlie Chaplin, Fletcher Henderson, Paul Hindemith, and Johannes Brahms, along with stunning original songs by the cast, Weimar to Vaudeville is Tom Allen's vivid imagining of the 20s and 30s: dirty as ever and roaring loudly enough to be heard half-way around the world.

Performances July 25 & 26 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m. matinee).



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Junior Hawks take Titans

Red Hawks guard Brendan Newhook looks to lose St. Thomas Titans defender Aidan Ramirez during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Tuesday, Dec. 12 in Haliburton. The Hawks led from the beginning and went on to win 39-15. Hawks centre Joe Boice led all scorers with 10 points while teammate Tevin Sullivan finished with seven points. /DARREN LUM Staff



Left, Red Hawks player Quinton Beaver rises above St. Thomas Titans defender Brett Roots during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Tuesday, Dec. 12 in Haliburton.

Below, Red Hawks defenders Holden Dupret Smith, far left, and Joe Boice put up a wall of hands against St. Thomas Titans player Ivan Steward.






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MINOR HOCKEY

Tykes come home A finalists

On Dec. 16, the Tom Prentice & Sons Trucking Tykes travelled to Marmora to participate in the Centre Hastings Grizzlies Tyke Tournament.

The Storm outplayed Loyalist in Game 1, taking the game 15-0. Goals scored by Vanek Logan (3), Evan Perrott (3), Luke Gruppe (2), McCartney Saunders (2), Mason Latanville (2), Jack Tomlinson (1), Jaxen Casey (1), Easton Burk (1) and assists by Carter Braun (1), Casey (2), Burk (2), Logan (1), Tomlinson (1).

Game 2 the Storm faced Newcastle, which ended in 10-0. Goals scored by Logan (5), Gruppe (2), Ethan DeCarlo (1), Perrott (1), Burk (1) and assists by DeCarlo (2), Tomlinson (2), Matthew Scheffee (1), Zach Prentice (1), Logan (1), Gruppe (1), Latanville (1).

The Storm would then take on Centre Hastings, the host team in the A championship game. Goaltender Braun had a busy game, stopping many of the Grizzlies' shots. The lone Storm goal was scored by Logan and assisted by Latanville and Prentice. The final score of the game was 2-1, which was the Tykes' first loss of the season, however the team came home as the A Finalists and displayed great sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Submitted by Jessica Tomlinson

Tough weekend for Bantam A team

This past weekend the Highland Storm Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House Dollo's Foodland Bantam A participated in the Campbellford Hockey Tournament. Game 1 was versus the Douro Dukes. The Storm had the lead briefly on a Sam Hoenow goal but were humbled in a 10-1 loss to the Dukes.

The second game saw the Storm take on the host Campbellford Colts. There was good action in the first period however neither team got on the scoreboard. Storm goalie Nate Miscio continued to play solidly keeping the game scoreless going into the third period. It appeared Sam Hoenow put the Storm in the lead with under two minutes to go in the game however after a brief discussion the referees called off the goal indicating that it was done with a high stick much to the dismay of Storm fans. The Colts then scored what would turn out to be the game winner with only 26 seconds left in the game.

For the B final, the Storm faced off against the Millbrook Stars. Despite a strong effort the boys found themselves on the losing end of a 2-0 score.

Submitted by Gord Hoenow

Storm Peewees defeat Bears 11-4

On Saturday, Dec. 16 the JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports Haliburton Family Medical Centre Highland Storm Peewees travelled to Bracebridge to take on the South Muskoka Bears. The Storm were on the board first with a goal by Aiden Perrott assisted by Kyan Hall the Bears tied it up heading into the second.

The second period the Storm took control with Cooper Coles scoring assisted by Perrott and Hall then Perrott put in another unassisted and then Hutchinson scored assisted by Kaine Brannigan to put the Storm ahead 4-1. The Bears scored to cut the lead in half but the Storm came back with Perrott putting in another for the hat trick assisted by Hall.

The Storm had a 5-2 lead heading into the third and it was all Storm with Austin Boylan scoring unassisted then after being pulled down Perrott scored on a penalty shot then Hutchinson unassisted. Hall scored unassisted then Perrott scored assisted by Hall and Sawyer Boutin putting the Storm up 10-2. The Bears trying all they could managed to score two quick goals but the Storm netted another with Brannigan scoring assisted by Hutchinson and Zander Upton to take the game 11-4. Good goaltending between the pipes by Taylor Consack. The Peewees' next game is in Oakwood to play the Mariposa Lightning on Thursday, Dec. 21. The Peewees would like to wish everyone a very happy holidays and a happy new year.

Submitted by Ron Hall

Atom A's to play Crusaders

The Cottage Country Building Supplies/Ridgewood Ford Highland Storm Atom A's travelled to Bracebridge to face the Bracebridge Bears. Unfortunately the Storm lost 4-1. Goal scored by Brechin Johnston and assisted by Addison Carr.

On Friday, Dec. 22, The Cottage Country Building Supplies/ Ridgewood Ford Highland Storm Atom A's will travel to Durham to face the Durham Crusaders.

On Saturday, Dec. 23, Atom A's will be hosting the Mariposa Lightning at 2 p.m. at the A.J. LaRue Arena.

Submitted by Amber Card

Atom 2 plays close game against Huntsville

On Saturday the Storm faced off against the Huntsville McDonald's Atoms on the Jack Bionda ice in Huntsville.

On this day the Storm would be in a tough situation as seven players and only two defence were able to make the trip. Olivia Gruppe stepped it up this week by patrolling the blue line. A new set of responsibilities and a lot of ice time, Gruppe quickly settled into her role alongside teammates Adam Davis and Toby Posti.

To start the game the Storm applied pressure keeping the puck in Huntsville's zone for a good portion of the first period. Owen Sisson's pursuit of the puck and Jacob Davis's ability to keep his feet moving through those small spaces were some of the reasons Huntsville had a hard time getting to the other end of the rink.

As the game wore on the short bench began to show its effects on the team. A couple of mental errors through the second period quickly ended up in the back of the Storm net. Andy Lippolis was both responsible in his own end and a force to be reckoned with against the boards in Huntsville end.

By the third period Huntsville's fresh legs and long bench was becoming a problem for the Storm. Eric Meuller and Layne Robinson at separate times both had clutch moments where they cleared the puck and relieved some of the Huntsville pressure. Jacob Lloyd had an outstanding game stopping 25 of the 30 shots fired his way.

The final score was 5-0 Huntsville, but this was not an accurate picture of how close this game this was.

Submitted by Jamie Lloyd

Atom AE ties Otters

On Dec. 16, the Highland Storm Atom AE team travelled to Huntsville to take on the Otters. Both teams were ready and battled for the puck. Neither team were able to score in the first period. In the second period it was the Otters that managed to score the first two goals of the game, but the Storm players fought back. In front of the net it was Jace Mills that won the battle to put the Highland Storm up on the scoreboard ending the second period.

Third period the Storm players gained momentum and were ready for the fight. With only a few minutes left of the game, Liam Harrison was standing at the net for the rebound shot and scoring the second goal tying the game 2-2. The Atom AE play Huntsville Otters after the holidays on Dec. 30 on home ice in Minden at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Reinwald

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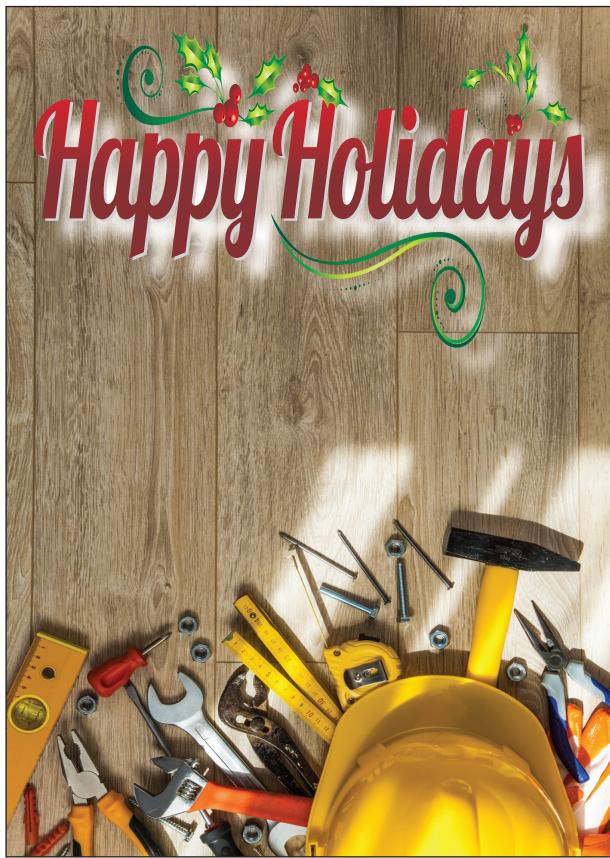
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Volleyball team still optimistic on season

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

There was a lot to cheer about for the Red Hawks senior girls' volleyball team after a fourth place finish at the exhibition Kawartha Girls Volleyball League tournament this past Wednesday. Haliburton finished fourth of six teams, losing two very close matches to the top two schools, splitting one and winning two best-of-two matches.

Team coach Dan Gimon acknowledges the team had the potential to finish higher, but still loved what he saw from his entire team.

This tournament result is not a concern for Gimon because at this point in the season it's about getting his players competitive playing experience in game situations.

He was happy with the team's performance against the bigger schools such as the eventual tournament winner I. E. Weldon (20-25 and 23-25) and second place Fenelon Falls Falcons (22-25 and 22-25).

Gimon said the team focus is on minimizing mistakes.

"I always tell the girls make them earn the point rather than give them a point. A missed serve is a gimmie for the other team," he said.

Another aspect is to work on passing precision.

Against the tournament third place Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans, the Hawks split their match (25-23 and 19-25).

Although the Hawks finished the tournament strongly by beating the Titans of St. Thomas 2-0 (25-23 and 27-25), Gimon believes his team had challenges with playing an opponent of lower calibre.

"Honestly, we should dominate them. Volleyball, you've probably heard before, is a very mental game and even when I played, you tend to drop your level to your opponent. Against the AA and AAA teams we raised our games and against the weaker teams we tend to drop our games," he said, referring also to the Brock High School win (25-19 and 25-18). "That's another thing we need to work on is our focus and maintaining our level no matter what team we are playing. But I'm pleased with the way the girls did. We're getting more experience and getting everybody in ... I don't think fourth is indicative of how we're going to end up."

Playing much of his bench was part of the plan this tournament.

They responded with quality execution and demonstrated great skill at the net and overall court play.

Gimon acknowledges the challenge with limited playing time.

"When you don't play a whole lot and you get on the court you're nervous and not confident and not sure where you're supposed to be at times. That's when I tell the other girls to help them out so they're getting more experience and they're going to know where they're supposed to be," he said.

The team's only setter, Arden Harrop, was busy, playing every match until the final one against the Titans.

Gimon replaced her with Natalya Gimon to start against the Titans of St. Thomas.

"[Playing] 10 sets is a lot for her and she tends to get frustrated because I tell the girls to get the pass right to her, but she's hustling. She logs a lot of miles when she's setting. We gave her a break and put 'Nattie' out there," he said, referring to Natalya Gimon.

Natalya was a standout with several points in every match either won on her serve or from her jump spike, including digging many balls given up by the opponents for points. Also, Emma Scheffee was solid and consistent throughout the tournament. Dakota Macdonald had standout tournament, scoring important points with her serving efficiency and ability to pass with precision. Other notable play was Ali Paul, who excelled in all areas.

He said Harrop has shown great grit, determination in games and in practice. Gimon said her work ethic has paid off with her development, which included learning how to back set to spread the offence.

Kristie Clements impressed the coach this tournament with her play and development, building her confidence.

"She was going after balls and she was hitting. She got some good hits and blocks. You could tell by her face she was pleased by her playing [today]," she said.

Gimon knows his team can improve, but understands it's a process of practice.

He is confident the team will fulfill its potential.

"It will come. It will come. I'm quite confident," he said.



Red Hawks senior girls' volleyball team's Abby Gordon, left, and Kristie Clements jump up for a block at a Kawartha High School Volleyball League exhibition tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 13 in Haliburton. The team finished fourth of six teams.

—DARREN LUM Staff

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				4	2			
6				5	8		9	
4	6	1			3		2	
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9	5	2					1	8
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Answers on page 20

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Santa pays a visit to Minden ... see page 3

Training registry for foresters in the works

by Allison Taylor

Foresters in the Haliburton Highlands Sustainable Forestry Association might be required to join a training registry in the near future.

The idea of having such a registry is to keep track of the levels of training each forest worker receives. Once these records are collected, the information can then be compiled in one database.

"Loggers are already getting training but we want to structure the training to get recognized for it," Stewardship Co-ordinator Steve Wilkins told a group of foresters at the HHSFA's annual general meeting on November 22 at the West Guelph Recreation Centre.

The structure of the training has not yet been deter-

mined. Wilkins said they have already spent four years on the concept. "We've been all over North America trying to find a model that will focus on the Great Lakes forest system."

Right now, the idea is fairly simple. Loggers would be required to sign up for certain training modules, Wilkins said. After so many of these modules, the individual would eventually attain the status of a professional logger.

The completion of the training would be similar to having the standing of a professional Class A mechanic, Wilkins said.

The training is not legislated right now, but the registry would help make the loggers more accountable

See Training page 2

"This is a new experience for us," Johnson said. He introduced Judy Coward, an economic development consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), who outlined the Rural Economic Development Program. She said the program will make \$200-million available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs over five years. It is a component of the Ontario Small Town and Rural (OSTAR) Development Initiative. It is part of a \$600-million initiative launched in 2000 to assist economic growth in rural Ontario.

She said the program addressed barriers to economic growth and ensures that small town and rural Ontario communities remain viable, healthy and vibrant places in which to live, work and invest by promoting:

- a diversified business climate in rural Ontario; the creation and retention of long-term jobs;
- investment in sectors that contribute to economic development; the creation of alliances or partnerships and increase quality of participation of rural stakeholders; new markets and economic development; economic development programs; and the development of information, tools and resources to enhance the rural economy.

"The program is clearly directed at rural Ontario," Coward said. "We are looking for ideas that will stimulate economic development in rural Ontario."

Coward explained that a detailed business plan is required as part of the application process. The applicants must also demonstrate how the partners fit together in the overall plan.

"We're looking for new and different ideas," Coward said. She stressed that there is no maximum or local projects, citing \$10-million which went to the wine industry in Niagara.

She explained that the applications go to the head office in Guelph. They are reviewed by an independent, arm's length, third-party panel of business

See Partnerships page 2

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UPCOMING Community Events

Haliburton Pastoral Charge, Christmas Eve Services

Joint Pastoral Charge Morning Service
When: Sunday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. singing, 10:30 a.m. service
Where: Lochlin United Church, 1050 Lochlin Rd. Minden
Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service-Communion and Special Music
When: Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church

Haliburton Pastoral Charge, New Years Eve Services

Morning Service-Joint Service for Ingoldsby and Lochlin United Churches
When: Dec. 31, 9 a.m. singing, 9:30 a.m. service
Where: Ingoldsby United Church, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden
Contemporary Service
When: Dec. 31, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church

Legion Branch 624, Wilberforce

Dec. 31 New Years Eve Dance. DJ Mike 9 p.m. - close
Jan. 1 New Years Day, President's Levee 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 27 Crib tournament in Trenton 29/\$50 - 28/\$25 - 24/\$10

Therapeutic Touch® Level 1

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018
Learn a holistic, evidenced based therapy that provides relaxation in any situation and boosts the immune system for improved healing, health and well being.
Level 1 introduces the method and the human energy system with hands on practice.
Contact Susan Keith at 705-457-3981 or email: ch.concepts@sympatico.ca.

Therapeutic Touch® Level 2 Workshop

When: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 8:30-5:30 p.m.
Continue or refresh your Therapeutic Touch journey! Learn to recognize and understand the meaning of imbalances in the energy field and methods of rebalancing the field to promote health and well being.
Level 2 provides an in depth look at the process and its efficacy with hands on practice.
Contact: Susan Keith at 705-457-3981 or email: ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

Legion Branch 129, Haliburton

Live entertainment featuring Jeff Moulton Saturday, Jan. 20, 4-7pm in the Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary. \$5 cover charge for non members.

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2	8	5	9	6	3	1	7	4
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7	9	1	5	2	8	4	6	3
4	5	2	3	7	6	9	1	8

Dorset readies ice palace

DORSET NEWS

Lee Ross
burgesslt@me.com

I think it's officially safe to say that Dorset will have a white Christmas this year. And thanks to the cold weather we've been experiencing, the Dorset Ice Palace should be ready for Christmas break thanks to Rick and his hard work flooding it. If you're not familiar with the Dorset Ice Palace it is Dorset's outdoor skating rink, located beside the fire hall. The Lions Centennial Park walking trail loops around the back of the rink through the forest, which I imagine would be very magical this time of year. The rink has been a popular winter gathering place for many, many years, and used to be the home of the Dorset Hounds hockey team. On Friday and Saturday nights, and many weeknights throughout the winter, you're sure to find people of all ages playing shinny at the Ice Palace. The heated changing room is great for when you get chilly and need a place to warm up or to just sit and hang out. There's no cost to use the rink, just show up with your skates

and have fun.

Another great winter activity is tobogganing, and Dorset has a great toboggan hill also located beside the fire hall. Hike up to the very top or just halfway, and slide back down to the bottom. The hill provides hours of fun for people of all ages, and when you get cold, warm up in the changing room at the Ice Palace at the bottom of the hill.

Maybe cross-country skiing or snowshoeing are more your thing? Located just south of Dorset at the Frost Centre is 26 km of ski trails for everyone from beginner to expert. Facilities include two on-trail, self-serve warm-up cabins (equipped with wood stoves and breathtaking winter views), rentals, historic Towerman's cabin, washroom, outdoor toilets and parking. Our trails office/store is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (November to April). The store stocks ski wax and hot chocolate! There are also 11 km of snowshoe trails located across the road from the ski trails. Don't have your own snowshoes? Don't worry, rentals are available! For more information and detailed maps please visit <https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/ski-snowshoe-trails.php>.

Happy birthday to Karen Knutt and Rebecca McFarlane. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@me.com.

This week in sports

The following are brief reports of sports news from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

Basketball team plays Green and White tournament

Congratulations to the senior Red Hawks basketball team for demonstrating composure and discipline in the Green and White Tournament in Peterborough. The team was extremely competitive in all three games against teams who have won at the OFSAA level.

Coles wins bronze

Congratulations to Aidan Coles on his performance at the Matmen Wrestling Tournament. Aidan advanced to the bronze medal match and wrestled extremely well to take the win.

Sr. b-ball team defeats St. Thomas

Congratulations to the senior basketball team on a convincing 53-33 victory over St. Thomas. The dynamic duo of Sam Longo and Owen Patterson-Smith combined for 30 points, 12 assists, six rebounds, and four steals. Our big men – Paydon Mischio, Kade Bain, Jonas Hill, Cam Little, and Coleman Heaven dominated the boards on both ends of the floor. Zak Shantz proved once again that he is one of the best two-way players in our league. Emily “Clutch” Domerchie

had a wicked left-handed layup and Steve Dudgeon made a huge buzzer-beater jump shot. Connor Swinson, Colby Lambshead, Lucas Bortolussi, and Alex Cundy gave us quality minutes off the bench.

Later in the week, they played two hard-fought, competitive games against LCVI and I.E. Weldon. The boys had chances in the fourth quarter to win both games.

Junior boys win big over St. Thomas

The junior boys' basketball team had another big win over St. Thomas Aquinas from Lindsay. Joe Boice led all players with 10 points. Holden Dupret-Smith led the team with five steals, and Jaxson Gill ate up the boards with six defensive and six offensive rebounds.

Hockey team has strong showing

The Red Hawk hockey team had a solid showing at the Oshawa Tournament. After being defeated by two top Triple A teams, the boys tightened up their buckets and defeated two Double A teams to finish off the tournament.

Wrestlers travel to Bancroft

The Red Hawk wrestling team travelled to Bancroft for the final tournament of 2017. Connor Spence, Tyler Wilson, Emily Klose, and Hannah Riopelle won bronze medals, while Nic Graham took the silver. Returning home as champions were Aidan Coles and Matt Manning. Special mention goes to Austin Weller and Owen Wooton for their gritty performances throughout the day.

Submitted by Judi Paul



County of Haliburton 2018 Budget Notice

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that they will be discussing the 2018 budget on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Council Chambers at 11 Newcastle St., Minden, ON. The published agenda for the above noted date can be viewed online at <http://haliburton.civicweb.net>

Michael Rutter, CAO/County Clerk
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 223
Fax: (705) 286-4829
e-mail: mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca

County of Haliburton Holiday Office Hours

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will close on Friday, December 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

*We wish everyone a safe
and happy holiday season!*

Minden Times

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Bathroom Renovation – Stanhope Fire Station

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking bids from qualified, experienced trades to renovate a bathroom in our Stanhope Fire Hall, as per the design, to create a new accessible washroom.

Please refer to www.algonquinhighlands.ca for complete details and Bid Forms:

CALL FOR TENDER
Bathroom Renovation Station 80 FS-17- 02.

Sealed/marked quotes will be received at the Township Office: 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1J1 until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018.

Please refer all tender inquiries to:
Mike Cavanagh, Fire Chief
mcavanagh@algonquinhighlands.ca
or by phone at 705-766- 0010.

The lowest or any quotation not necessarily accepted.

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Sunday December 24th 7pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

Message Rev. Max Ward

With lots of opportunities to sing those favourite carols, and with Inspiring candlelight closing.

Sunday December 31st 11am

Community Joint Service with Minden, Zion & Maple Lake United Churches

Followed by a light lunch to celebrate over 93 years of serving our communities and to celebrate the beginning of our new amalgamated "Highland Hills United Church" which takes over our mission January 1st in this very different 21st century.



Rev. Max Ward 705-286-1470

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650 OBITUARIES

HALIBURTON
Community
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Doris Adeline Watterworth (nee Johnston)
(Resident of Toronto, Ontario)

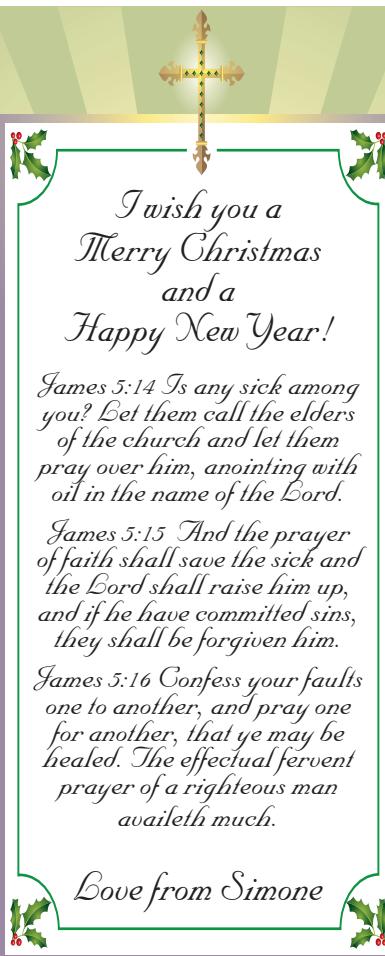
Peacefully at Bridgepoint Healthcare on Saturday morning, December 16, 2017 in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Douglas Watterworth. Loving mother of Ann (Doug Beattie) and beloved grandmother of Sarah (Sam), Lizzie and Douglas. Cherished daughter of the late Sidney and Jessie Johnston (nee Pope). Loving sister of Bill (Jane). Predeceased by her brothers Jack (Sandra) and Don. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren and many good friends and neighbours. Doris worked for the Bank of Montreal for over 35 years and was one of the first women in management with the Bank. Doris was born in Haliburton and although she lived most of her life in Toronto, still had deep ties to the community. She was much loved and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

The family will receive friends at the **HUMPHREY FUNERAL HOME A.W. MILES - NEWBIGGING CHAPEL**, 1403 Bayview Avenue (south of Davisville Avenue) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 20, 2017. Then to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Friday morning, December 22, 2017 for Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Interment later Evergreen Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the CNIB or the Kidney Foundation of Canada would be appreciated by the family.

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500 ANNOUNCEMENTS



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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Katherine "Kathy" Elizabeth Magee (nee Schmidt)

February 26, 1946-December 12, 2017

Proud Employee of Kawartha Dairy for 37 years and she loved her Kawartha Dairy Family.

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. At the age of 71.

Loved wife of the late David. (2014). Adored Momma and Best Friend to Debbie (Earl) Bull, Lori (Scott) Hamilton. Cherished Nana to Cory, (Melissa), Andrew, (Lindsay), Jesse, Graham and Great Nana to Kelsey, Hailey, Bently, and Jasper. Loved sister of Jackie (Doug) Cronberry and sister-in-law of Danny (Sue) Magee. Sadly missed by her many Nieces and Nephews.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Monday, December 18, 2017 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Kathy's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF), Canadian Cancer Society, or to the Charity of your Choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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good health this
holiday season.*



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Melanie Vigrass*
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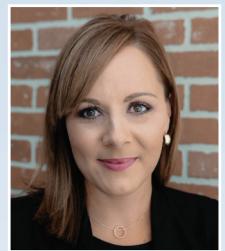
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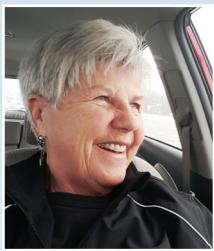
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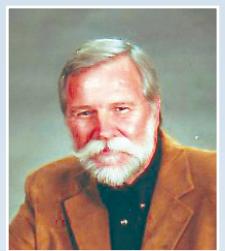
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